4. The relevant provisions of FDI policy for 'investment companies', as given in Press Note 2 (2000 series) dated 11.2.2000 issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion will no longer be applicable to telecom sector.
5. Press Note 15 (1998 series) and Press Note 2 (2000 Series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion stand modified to the above extent.
6. An unconditional compliance to the aforesaid conditions shall be submitted by the existing telecom service providers to the licensor within 3 months from date of the Press Note and, thereafter, compliance report shall be submitted on 1st day of July and January on six monthly basis.
7. Press Note 5 (2005 Series) dated 3.11.2005 stands superceded by this Press Note.

(Gopal Krishna)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

F. No. 12/2/2006-FC dated the 19th April, 2007

Copy forwarded to Press Information Officer, Press Information Bureau, for giving wide publicity to the above Press Note.

Cost per line for GSM and CDMA

3064. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) what is the cost per line for GSM and CDMA;

(b) if so, the cost per line for BSNL in the recent tender of GSM; and

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that private operators are able to buy at US$40/fine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Average cost of GSM 2G equipment as per previous orders of BSNL has been around Rs. 3200.00 per line. The cost of CDMA equipment, as per recent tender of BSNL is Rs. 2024.00 per line.

(b) The recent tender for planning supply and commissioning of 2G/3G combo network for 45.5 Million lines is yet under financial evaluation.

(c) Price of equipment is dependent on several factors such as the technology sought, scope of work, specifications and other terms and conditions like rollout schedule, payment terms etc. and therefore straight comparisons cannot be made.

Delay in tender process

3065. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) whether BSNL had decided to purchase huge quantity of mobile handsets to face the competition from the Private Service Providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is enormous delay in the tendering process; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) BSNL has floated tender for procurement of 3 lakh GSM based fixed wireless phones.

(c) and (d) NIT for this tender was issued on 26-12-2006. Being a two-stage bid, Techno Commercial bid was opened on 08-03-2007. The bid is presently under evaluation and techno commercial screening is in the final stage. Financial bid of only short listed bidders will be opened at a short notice.

Ombudsman for postal sector

3066. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an Ombudsman for postal sector to address the grievances of consumers;